

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02109 061510Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CPR-02
DODE-00 /035 W

-----032392 070410Z /21

R 061354Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, AF, GE, FI

SUBJECT: HERMANN SCHWIESAU TO BE GDR AMBASSADOR IN KABUL

REF: KABUL 5215

1. DR. HERMANN SCHWIESAU, GDR AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND SINCE FEBRUARY 1967, DEPARTED HELSINKI ON JUNE 21, WITHOUT AN ONWARD ASSIGNMENT BUT REPORTEDLY TO TAKE UP AN ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED CONTACT WITH SCHWIESAU DURING HIS STINT IN HELSINKI, HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT. THE EASTERN EUROPEAN CORPS HERE TENDS TO BE RECLUSIVE AND SOCIALLY USUALLY BUZZES ABOUT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. WHILE SCHWIESAU WAS PART OF THIS GROUP, HE WAS THE EXCEPTION TO ITS LACK OF DISTINCTION. ALTHOUGH OUR CONTACTS WITH HIM WERE NEVER INFORMAL, THEY LEFT AN IMPRESSION OF HIM AS CORDIAL, BRIGHT, EAGER TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE, PARTICULARLY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR, AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02109 061510Z

HEADED FOR BIGGER THINGS. HIS ENGLISH COMPREHENSION APPEARS GOOD (HIS FAREWELL TO THE CORPS WAS IN EXCELLENT ENGLISH) BUT HE PREFERS SPEAKING IN GERMAN AND ON FORMAL CALLS, USED AN INTERPRETER. IN ADDITION, THE GDR EMBASSY UNDER SCHWIESAU DISPLAYED SIGNS OF THE SAME UNUSUAL OPENNESS REPORTED OF BIEDERMANN IN REFTEL.

3. MY OWN CONTACTS WITH SCHWIESAU WERE
ALMOST ALWAYS STRUCTURED, BUT IN CONVERSATION HE
WAS OPEN AND FRIENDLY. HE SAID HE HAD HEADED THE FOREIGN OFFICE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT AT THE TIME THE US AND GDR WERE
BEGINNING THE NEW PHASE OF THEIR RELATIONS,
AND HE KNEW OF MY ROLE IN NEGOTIATING AND SIGNING
THE FIRST TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
WHENEVER HE RETURNED FROM THE GDR, HE BROUGHT
GREETINGS FROM MY FORMER GDR FISHERIES COUNTERPARTS
AND EXPRESSIONS OF THE GDR'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH IT IMPLEMENTATION
(NO FISHERIES ALLOCATION FOR THE GDR OFF THE US COAST).
ON HIS FIRST AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT, HE WAS PROUD
OF HIS PART IN ARRANGING PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S STATE
VISIT TO THE GDR BUT AMUSED AT THE HIGHS AND LOWS
AMONG HIS OFFICIAL CONCERNS...THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT
AND PROBLEMS OF SPACE AT THE CHANCERY. IF FOUND HIM
EASY TO TALK TO, AND HE APPEARED TO USE HIS
INTERPRETER ONLY FOR PSYCHIC SUPPORT. HOWEVER, I WAS THE
ONLY ONE OF THE WESTERN AMBASSADORS HERE NOT
SURPRISED AT HIS VERY GOOD ENGLISH AT THE TIME OF
HIS LEAVETAKING.

4. IF SCHWIESAU GETS THE KABUL POST, AS WAS EXPECTED
WHEN HE LEFT, I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND HIM A
THOROUGH PROFESSIONAL, QUICK TO LEARN, WITH A
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HELSIN 02109 061510Z

SENSE OF HUMOR BUT ALSO A NO-NONSENSE APPROACH TO
GDR INTERESTS. HE WAS VERY EFFECTIVE HERE.

RIDGWAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN02109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-0745
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780792/aaaaczco.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3977827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 5215
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2107100
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HERMANN SCHWIESAU TO BE GDR AMBASSADOR IN KABUL
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, AF, GC, FI, (SCHWIESAU, HERMANN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3977827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014